



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,462	03/31/2004	Patrick Antonelli	01236P0007US	8042

7590

02/22/2005

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER

Citicorp Center

Suite 3800

500 West Madison Street

Chicago, IL 60661-2511

EXAMINER

LANDREM, KAMRIN R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3738

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/814,462	<b>Applicant(s)</b> ANTONELLI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Kamrin R. Landrem	<b>Art Unit</b> 3738	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/16/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 30-35 and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Muller et al (USPN 6,537,199 B1).

With reference to Figures 6 and 21 Muller et al discloses an ossicular prosthesis comprising a pair of jaws 34 having a semi-cylindrical inner surface for engaging opposite sides of an ossicle when implanted in a human ear, to anchor to the ossicle; a spring element 36 of a flexible material, different from the pair of jaws, operatively coupled to the jaws for biasing the jaws toward one another to provide clamping pressure, and an actuator element 19 operatively coupled to the spring element. The actuator element comprises a piston adapted to extend through an oval window when implanted in a human ear. The actuator element comprises a transducer element in the form of either a coil or a magnet of an electromagnetic actuator 13, or a piezoelectric element. With reference to Figure 10 the spring element 35 has opposite ends each received in an opening (slit) in one of the jaws to provide swivel joints that may further be surrounded by an elastomer (Figures 26-29). Additionally a spacer to temporarily hold the jaws in an open position until implanting in a human ear is completed. The spring element is of a

Art Unit: 3738

metal material (8:25-59) selected from titanium or stainless steel in the form of a loop that extends around the actuator element (Fig. 29). The jaw may be formed of a bioactive material such as ceramic. Hydroxyapatite is well known in the art as a bioactive ceramic material.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muller in view of Muller et al (USPN 6,547,715 B1).

As discussed above Muller discloses the ossicular prosthesis as claimed. Muller however fails to disclose a spacer for maintaining the jaws in an open position until implanted. With reference to Figures 5-8 Muller ('715) teaches an ossicular prosthesis 22 comprising jaws 27,28 for engaging opposites of an ossicle 8 when implanted in a human ear and a spacer 41 that maintains the jaws in an open position (Figure 5) during delivery and allows jaws to be closed upon implantation (Figure 8), the spacer precluding unintentional movements of the jaws (5:35-50). Therefore in view of the teachings it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the prosthesis as disclosed by Muller ('199) to include a spacer as taught by Muller ('715) for maintaining the jaws in an open position during implantation to reduce the difficulties of the surgical procedure and prevent unintentional movement of the jaws.

***Conclusion***


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kamrin R. Landrem whose telephone number is 571-272-4752. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00, Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on 571-272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kamrin Landrem  
Examiner  
AU 3738

krl

  
CORRINE McDERMOTT  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700